

November 4, 2013

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE TORRANCE TRAFFIC COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Traffic Commission convened in a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 4, 2013 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Rudolph led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Furey, Habel, Rudolph,
Sargent, Tsao, and Chairperson Siani.

Absent: Commissioner Herring.

Also Present: Engineering Manager Semaan, Associate Engineer Sedadi,
Assistant to the City Manager Chaparyan,
Building Official Segovia, and Torrance Police Sergeant Koenig.

MOTION: Commissioner Sargent moved to grant Commissioner Herring an excused absence for the November 4, 2013 Commission meeting. Commissioner Furey seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Tsao moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Sargent seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5a. MINUTES OF OCTOBER 7, 2013

MOTION: Commissioner Sargent moved for the approval of the October 7, 2013 Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Habel seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Herring).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

Chairperson Siani explained the policies and procedures of the Traffic Commission, including the right to appeal decisions to City Council.

7. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION

7a. RECEIVE AND FILE UPDATE INFORMATION REGARDING VIA CORONA

Engineering Manager Semaan provided an update regarding the turnaround on Via Corona, continued from the October 7, 2013 Commission meeting. He reported that a copy of Hamilton & Associates' bid to conduct a slope analysis and ideas for resolution was included in Attachment B and background correspondence could be found in Attachment C. He stated that residents were invited to this meeting but that spokesperson Bill Paul was unable to attend. He noted that Assistant to the City Manager Chaparyan and Building Official Segovia were present to answer questions and that he was unaware of any new direction from the facilitator, Mr. Lance Widman.

Chairperson Siani recalled that at the last meeting she suggested that Building Official Segovia review Hamilton's proposal before the residents pay for the study.

Building Official Segovia stated that, in concept, the scope of the proposal is satisfactory and a good start, but cautioned that it is only a preliminary proposal and more specific details are needed before the City can say that it is the entire solution.

In response to Commissioner Sargent's inquiry, Assistant to the City Manager Chaparyan explained that the facilitator was brought in from the South Bay Dispute Resolution Center. He stated that Mr. Widman has been unsuccessful in getting all eight residents to accept Hamilton's proposal and that, once the study has been conducted, staff would be able to analyze the findings and recommended course of action.

Responding to Commissioner Sargent's inquiries, Building Official Segovia explained that the issue is an erosion problem and that soil from private property is making its way onto the public right-of-way. He noted that the City is not required to conduct any further analysis and that specific instructions were given to the residents almost a year ago. He indicated that a concrete wall may be a solution and that he is not opposed to the idea of a second wall.

Thomas Cooke, Via Corona, maintained that the City should have conducted a formal analysis of the problem before determining it to be a liability issue. He took issue with the hardship on the residents and the fact that they have not been privy to options offered by Mr. Widman in a phone conversation he had with Mr. Paul. He stated that the residents would like the opportunity to evaluate and respond to Mr. Widman's recommendations and requested that the City provide his formalized notes. He indicated that the preferred solution would be for the residents to periodically clean up the soil in the turnaround.

Staff explained that they have no formalized notes and that Mr. Widman is not in a position to make recommendations regarding erosion control, noting that his role is to create dialogue and facilitate discussion between the residents and the City.

Lauren Perelmuter, Via Corona, stated that the glitch in moving forward is that the residents have been waiting to meet together as a group with the facilitator and it has not happened.

Commissioners and staff explained that the City wants to see an engineering report and recommended that, if five residents are in agreement, they should move forward and obtain the services of Hamilton and, until they do an analysis and come up with a recommendation, they cannot move forward. It was explained that sweeping up

the residue is not an acceptable option from the City Attorney or Building & Safety's perspective because of potential liability.

Commissioner Rudolph stated that he sympathizes with the residents but suggested, with Commissioner Furey and Chairperson Siani concurring, that the Commission should not hear this issue again until an engineering study is completed. He recommended that the residents obtain another proposal if they are not satisfied with Hamilton's bid.

Commissioner Sargent expressed concern that installation of a second wall may not be acceptable to the City. He urged the residents to work closely with the City before spending money on ideas that may not work.

Gordon Reiter, Via Corona, expressed appreciation to Mr. Hutton, Paseo De Las Tortugas, for ceasing to overwater his property. He maintained that the ground is drying out and that there is no longer a problem.

MOTION: Commissioner Furey moved to accept and file the updated information regarding Via Corona. Commissioner Rudolph seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Herring).

Staff was directed to bring the item back at the conclusion of the analysis by an engineering firm and review by the City.

7b. TRAFFIC COMMISSION WORK PLAN – FIRST PRIORITY:
DEVELOP A POLICY TO NOTIFY RESIDENTS OF PARKING RESTRICTION
INSTALLATION

Associate Engineer Sedadi provided background and presented the City's existing procedures regarding parking restrictions. She requested that the Commission review the staff report, receive input from staff, and provide feedback to develop a draft policy that notifies residents of parking restriction installation. She reported that restrictions are generally categorized as: statutory parking prohibitions, proposed parking restrictions as part of a Capital Improvement Project, parking restrictions due to visibility, time specific parking restriction, and permit parking.

She stated that statutory parking prohibitions are either mandated by Torrance Municipal Code or California Vehicle Code and are installed per Code requirement. She provided an example of installation of red curb in front of a fire hydrant and pointed out that no one is notified.

Referring to parking restrictions as part of a Capital Improvement Project, Associate Engineer Sedadi provided an example of street widening to accommodate a right-turn lane. She stated that residents and business owners are notified of any parking restrictions during the early stages of the project when public outreach is conducted.

She reported that staff investigates visibility concerns and, if restrictions are deemed necessary, letters are sent to impacted property owners and businesses notifying them of installation of red curb or signage. She added that, if parking

restrictions are not required but would enhance visibility, letters are sent to impacted property owners asking for their input and potential concurrence by a given date.

She described how staff investigates time specific parking restrictions, such as "One Hour Parking 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM," by informing impacted property owners and requesting their input by a certain date. She stated that, once analysis is completed and impacted residents are informed of the result, they can appeal decisions to the Traffic Commission and City Council.

Associate Engineer Sedadi concluded her presentation with a description of the permit parking notification process that involves substantial public outreach. She stated that requests are based on a neighborhood-wide basis and that residents' feedback is solicited at various iterations.

Engineering Manager Semaan noted that staff minimizes installation of red curbs as much as possible in residential areas because parking is always at a premium. He stated that feedback is requested of residents and owners of multi-family residences, apartments, and condominiums. He stated that time specific restrictions are usually in business areas and a solicitation and feedback process is conducted for concurrence.

Commissioner Sargent stated that existing procedures sound like perfect policy for what the Commission wants to do. In response to his inquiry regarding Via Corona, Engineering Manager Semaan explained that residents were not given prior notification because it was a statutory parking situation with a liability element.

Commissioner Rudolph initiated a brief discussion regarding the Cars2Go proposal to be exempt from many of the City's parking restrictions; Engineering Manager Semaan explained that City Council did not support their proposal and that any car has the right to park on a public street.

Commissioner Furey suggested adding specific timelines to the policy and Commissioner Sargent suggested a 48-hour notification policy for statutory parking prohibitions.

Engineering Manager Semaan explained that any restrictions have to be posted 72 hours in advance except in cases of statutory parking prohibitions or emergency.

Commissioner Rudolph expressed concern that 48-hour notification is too long a period if safety is being compromised and staff explained that it is a policy, not a law that is absolute.

Commissioners raised the possibility of including language in the policy that states that any notification policy does not apply in emergency situations.

In response to Commissioner Tsao's inquiry, Engineering Manager Semaan explained that the Commission does not have the right to override Torrance Municipal Code and they would have to recommend a supplemental or modification of the language to try to make an exemption. He added that staff does not direct individuals to the Traffic Commission, but that anyone has the ability to appear before them.

Commissioner Furey suggested giving 30-day notice for time specific parking restriction and staff advised that it could be included in the notification letter.

Sergeant Koenig voiced concern that 30-day notification could cause a problem with the installers and Engineering Manager Semaan stated that it would not be scheduled with Operations until the 30-day period has expired.

MOTION: Commissioner Rudolph moved to concur with the staff recommendation as submitted, with the addition of a minimum 48-hour notification period for statutory parking prohibitions and a 30-day feedback period for discretionary parking restrictions. Commissioner Furey seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Herring).

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

8a. Engineering Manager Semaan stated that Commissioners Herring, Habel, and Furey attended the City Traffic Engineers Workshop for Traffic Commissioners on October 26, 2013 in Buena Park.

Commissioner Habel stated that the workshop was very informative and Commissioner Furey shared what he learned about roundabouts.

8b. Commissioner Habel questioned why eastbound traffic on 237th Street is not allowed to go straight through Crenshaw Boulevard and Engineering Manager Semaan explained that it was a Condition of Approval when 237th Street was extended.

8c. Commissioner Habel expressed concern about a recent change in signal timing at Arlington Avenue at Plaza del Amo; Engineering Manager Semaan advised that he would have Operations staff investigate to see if it is functioning correctly.

8d. Commissioner Tsao complained about the long red light wait traveling southbound on Hawthorne Boulevard at Skypark Drive in the middle of the night; Engineering Manager Semaan stated that he would relay the concern to Cal Trans.

8e. Commissioner Rudolph discussed the difficulty of merging into the left-turn lane when driving southbound Hawthorne Boulevard to eastbound Lomita Boulevard.

8f. Chairperson Siani informed Sergeant Koenig that trash trucks are driving down Cabrillo Avenue every afternoon coming from the City of Lomita and it is not a truck route.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:04 p.m., Chairperson Siani adjourned the meeting to December 2, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room, Torrance City Hall.

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Approved as submitted December 2, 2013 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
